

A governing agency(FCC) which issues the option, or privilege, of operating in the CW mode should require a demonstration of at least a minimal proficiency in that mode, particularly for operation in the HF spectrum where propagation typically covers a wide region. The existing 5 wpm Element 1 test cannot possibly be construed as a significant obstacle in obtaining an amateur license; therefore, I agree with Mr. Roux in retaining Element 1 as mandatory for General Class applicants. I also strongly urge a return to a more stringent CW speed demonstration (15-20 wpm)for Amateur Extra Class applicants, as they alone are entitled to exclusive CW sub-bands and are presumed to be among the more skilled and versatile operators.

While I do not necessarily agree or disagree with the elimination of all license classes other than General and Extra, I strongly oppose granting to General Class licensees any privileges currently reserved for Advanced and Extra Class. In reviewing the history of amateur licensing, I believe there is evidence which supports the value of licensing incentives in maintaining the vitality and integrity of amateur radio. I would hope that the United States, and its amateurs, could be the example to follow in maintaining those standards.

Submitted by Robert M. Montandon, W5KCW